

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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R 281442Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3688
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY OSLO
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 1703

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PEPR, SW, CH, VM
SUBJECT: SWEDISH FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT TO PRC

REF: STOCKHOLM 1462 (NOTAL) (EXDIS)

1. SWEDISH MFA OFFICIAL WHO ACCOMPANIED FM SODER ON HER RECENT TRIP TO PRC AND VIETNAM PROVIDED EMBOFFS WITH SOME ADDITIONAL INSIGHTS ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF TRIP TO PRC.
 2. SWEDES FOUND THE PRC LEADERSHIP RELAXED, CONFIDENT, AND COMFORTABLY IN CHARGE. UNLIKE VIETNAM, WHERE BAI BANG HAD BECOME PRESSING BILATERAL ISSUE (SEPTTEL), GOS HAD NO SUBSTANTIVE PROBLEMS TO RAISE WITH CHINESE. SWEDES WERE STRUCK BY COMPARISON WITH VIETNAM, PRC EMERGING AS THE BETTER ORGANIZED, DISCIPLINED SOCIETY, MORE AUSPICIOUSLY POISED FOR RECONOMIC TAKE-OFF AND WITH POPULATION GROWTH EFFECTIVELY CHECKED.
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3. SPECIFIC QUESTION OF CHINESE PURCHASES OF SWEDISH MILITARY EQUIPMENT WAS NEVER RAISED. MFA SOURCE CONFIDED THAT SWEDES, ALWAYS SENSITIVE TO SOVIET VIEWS ON THE MATTER, WOULD PROBABLY NOT AGREE TO SELL SOPHISTICATED WEAPONRY TO CHINESE EVEN IF APPROACHED.

4. CHINESE TOOK PAINS TO REFER TO VIETNAMESE AS "OUR VIETNAMESE FRIENDS," STRESSING POINT THAT \$10 BILLION IN CUMULATIVE AID EXCEEDED THAT PROVIDED BY SOVIETS. CHINESE HAD NO INTENTION OF IMPOSING THEMSELVES, MILITARILY OR DIPLOMATICALLY, IN VIETNAMESE-CAMOBIDAN BORDER DISPUTE SINCE THAT WOULD ONLY SERVE TO GET SOVIETS INVOLVED.

5. SWEDISH-CHINESE DIALOGUE WILL BE MAINTAINED BY SERIES OF FORTHCOMING VISITS. CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER HAU COMMITTED HIMSELF TO A STOCKHOLM VISIT WITHIN COURSE OF NEXT YEAR. HIGH LEVEL CHINESE MILITARY DELEGATION HEADED BY DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF DUE INTO STOCKHOLM IN JUNE. ON SWEDISH SIDE, MINISTER OF EDUCATION MOGARD WILL BE VISITING PEKING.

6. COMMENT: GIVEN SMOOTH CONTEXT OF SINO-SWEDISH RELATIONS, MRS. SODER'S VISIT WAS UNDRAMATICALLY SUCCESSFUL. THE SWEDES ALREADY HAVE A COMMITMENT FROM SOVIET PM KOSYGIN TO VISIT SWEDEN NEXT YEAR, AND ARE PARTICULARLY PLEASED AT FOREIGN MINISTER HUA'S COMMITMENT FOR A VISIT IN THIS CONTEXT.
KENNEDY-MINOTT

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